

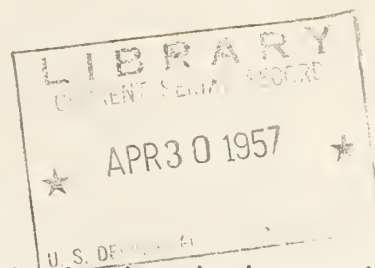
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# FOOD PREVIEW



A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service

January 17, 1957  
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MEAT: 1957 supplies will be less than 1956's record. Cut will be heaviest in year's first half, most reduction in pork.

Beef: Supplies ample through year, as cattle slaughter holds near record high. Supplies from fed cattle will be nearly as large this winter as last; at Jan. 1, number of cattle and calves on feed for market was 4 percent larger than year ago. Marketings of fed cattle will be distributed more evenly through year than in 1956, supplies probably will continue large in most months.

DROUGHT: Extent and severity of drought will be a major factor affecting cattle slaughter and beef supplies in 1957; if it persists, it could be most significant factor affecting cattle industry. Severe drought would reduce cattle numbers, and liquidation would add to current beef supplies.

Pork: Hog slaughter is decreasing, will continue smaller this winter than last, because fewer late pigs last spring reduced year-end inventory of hogs nearing slaughter weight. 1956 fall pig crop was down 4 percent, this will be reflected in pork supplies in spring and early summer. Producers planned, at Dec. 1, to reduce spring pig crop 2 percent, indicating that pork supplies during most or all of 1957 will remain below 1956. However, by year's end, difference will be small.

Supplies over next few months will be about same as year ago.

Lamb:  
POULTRY:

Eggs: Production is increasing seasonally, is likely to continue above a year earlier through next few months. Production is being bolstered by facts: rate of lay is up 3 to 4 percent over year ago; producers tend to keep layers longer than formerly. For 1956, Nation's flocks set new production record -- 2 percent over 1955, 7 percent over average.

Broilers: Supplies for January will continue about 10 percent larger than year earlier, rate of marketing in February and March will be higher than in January.

Turkeys: Supplies liberal, during at least year's early months. Storage supplies Jan. 1 were at near-record high levels, number of turkeys remaining on farms holds well above last year. Growers at Jan. 1 reported intentions to produce 10 percent more turkeys in 1957 than last year. Number actually raised may vary somewhat from these intentions.

DAIRY: Production of milk will rise gradually until late spring. Barring extremely unfavorable weather, production likely to continue above year earlier during most of that time. Number of cows is about same as last year, but rate of production per cow continues to set new high records. For 1957, further increase is in prospect over record 1956 output of nearly 127 billion pounds of milk -- about 3 percent more than previous record high.

**FRUITS:**

Citrus: Supplies of oranges for 1956-57 are expected to be slightly larger than last season, despite facts that dry, cold weather in both Florida and California were unfavorable to sizing, and harvest of Texas citrus was slowed as growers waited for rain. Lemon supplies slightly larger than last season. Grapefruit supplies about 5 percent smaller than year ago.

Processed: Supplies of frozen orange concentrate larger, with some increase in output expected this season; stocks held by Florida packers somewhat larger than year ago. Stocks of canned orange juice much smaller.

VEGETABLES: Supplies this winter expected to total about 7 percent smaller than year ago. Drought and shortage of water for irrigation in Texas are primary causes of decline. Sharpest reductions from 1956 for beets, cabbage, carrots, lettuce. Smaller crops also indicated for lima beans, broccoli, celery, shallots, spinach. Increases over last year expected for artichokes, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, sweet corn, cucumbers, escarole, green peppers, tomatoes.

In its acreage and marketing guides, USDA has suggested 2 percent cut in acreage planted to vegetables for spring harvest. If acreage planted is in line with recommendations, average yields would result in moderately smaller supplies of vegetables than last spring.

Processing: Winter and early spring acreage of spinach for processing, in Texas and California, slightly smaller than year ago. Supplies of both canned, frozen vegetables substantially larger than 1955. Among canned vegetables, supplies of sweet corn up about a fourth from last year, supplies of green peas moderately larger. Prospects for substantially larger supplies of snap beans, tomatoes, most tomato products, moderately larger supplies of cucumber pickles.

Potatoes: Both onions, potatoes expected to be in heavier supply this winter than year ago. Large stocks of 1956-crop potatoes are and will be available, production of potatoes for winter-season harvest is expected to be larger than year ago. Winter crop is forecast at 44 percent larger than last year, more than twice average. For late spring crop, growers report intentions to plant 3 percent more potatoes than last year, but 9 percent fewer than in 1955.

Sweet-potatoes: Supplies about a fifth smaller than last year.

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# The Plentiful Foods Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, will support industry campaigns on the following commodities, at the following times:

CANNED SWEET CORN . . . . .	January	23 to February 2
EGGS . . . . .	March	1 to March 31
MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS . .	June	1 to June 30